



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Officer

DATE: December 5, 2007

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item V(j): Consideration of resolution authorizing the extension of the contract with Conejo Crest Landscaping for grounds maintenance at King Gillette Ranch, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the extension of the contract with Conejo Crest Landscaping for an additional amount not to exceed \$21,000 to provide grounds maintenance at King Gillette Ranch, unincorporated Los Angeles County.

Background: On July 12, 2007, the Governing Board adopted a resolution authorizing a contract with Conejo Crest Landscaping in an amount not to exceed \$30,600 to provide grounds maintenance services at King Gillette Ranch.

The MRCA opened to the public on June 30, 2007, mere hours after the previous tenant, Soka University, vacated the property. Since that time, MRCA staff has been working continuously to assess all the resources that will be necessary to properly manage and maintain the property. This has proven to be a difficult and more intensive task than staff had previously anticipated. Operations staff on site has had to contend with numerous emergency maintenance items. During the first few months, over a dozen trees dropped major limbs or failed altogether. More recently, staff has been dealing with major water line and gas line leaks.

The campus portion of property has vast lawns and many mature trees that require significant maintenance efforts. Conejo Crest Landscaping had been maintaining the landscape for Soka University for many years. They have a routine already in place that covers the necessary landscape work. MRCA staff has been extremely satisfied with their work so far, and they require very little supervision. Their presence has ensured that the grounds stay in quality condition while MRCA staff deals with more major maintenance, providing public access and coordinating major filming activity within the park.

Staff needs additional time to incorporate the general grounds maintenance into the

regular routine and needs time to hire staff to get these tasks done. Staff proposes increasing the contract by \$21,000 and extending it through the end of January 2008.

Consideration: New contract costs are estimated to not exceed \$21,000. Funding for the contract would come from discretionary funds.